points of time, the policy of the Govt. is to fill up the vacancies promptly.

(b) In the light of the judgement of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Ernakulam, delivered on 10.1.1992, instructions have already been issued in April, 1992 advising Zonal Railways that "duty at a stretch of running staff" should not ordinarily exceed 10 hours from departure of the train and overall duty from 'signing on' to 'signing off' should not exceed 12 hours save in exceptional circumstances like accidents, floods/ breaches, agitation, equipment failures etc. Implementation of these instructions is monitored at divisional/zonal and Railways Board's levels with a view to ensure proper compliance of the instructions.

Modernisation of Railway stations in Tamil Nadu

3501. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified railway stations in Tamil Nadu for modernisation; if so, the names thereof; and

(b) the measures Government have taken for their modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted due to growth in passenger traffic and changes in traffic pattern, subject to availability of funds. Works in this regard are included in the annual works programme of the Railways.

Details of various major works already taken up in the State of Tamil Nadu are as under:

	Particulars of works	Anticipated cost in lakh Rs.
1.	(a) Chennai Central-Improvements of circulating area by way of covering over Bucknigham canal adjacent of new concourse.	180.00
	(b) Chennai Central-Improvements to architectural feature, remodelling of vegitarian refeshment room, improvement to dadoing in waiting hall, illuminated boards, lighting in concourse and flooring in new concourse.	65.46
	(c) Improvements to circulating area by covering the Buckingham Canal towards south.	90.10
	(d) Provision of washable apron on platforms	15.23
	(e) Extension of platform shelter	17.41
	(f) Chennai Central Suburban Terminal-Conversion of platform No. 14 into island platform etc.	97.11
2.	Madurai Jn. Provision of foot-over-bridge	136.90
	Raising of platform level	17.23
	Second entry & circulating area, improved lighting, waiting hall etc.	49.28
3.	Melamaruvathur —New station building.	16.16
4.	Pattaravakkam —Provision of foot-over-bridge	23.09

In addition to the above various works of modernisation of smaller station have also been taken up at Veppampattu, Katpadi, Tondiarpet, Kavarapettai, Tiruttani, Tiruppur, Coimbatore Jn., Tulukapatti, Tenmalai and Udumalpet.

Guidelines for awarding contracts to run *bookstalls* at railway platforms

3502. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/guidelines adopted for awarding contracts to run bookstalls at railway platforms;